

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 USIE-00 ERDE-00 NRC-05
SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 /096 W
-----131746Z 032179 /41

O R 131625Z JAN 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1108
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL MBFR
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 0166

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: ANOMALIES: FRENCH PROBLEM

REF: (A) USNATO 134 (DTG 121620Z JAN 77), (B) 75 USNATO
5580 (DTG 141535Z OCT 75), (C) 75 STATE 248365
(DTG 180120Z OCT 75)

SUMMARY: SPC ON JANUARY 10 AGREED TO FRG SUGGESTION THAT
MBFR WORKING GROUP SHOULD UPDATE THE FIGURES IN THE MOST
RECENT MBFR WG STUDY ON ANOMALIES. FRENCH DELEGATION
NOW INSISTS THAT DATA ON FRENCH FORCES BE OMITTED FROM
ANY UPDATE OF THE WG STUDY. FRENCH DELEGATION SAYS THIS
IS LOGICAL NOW THAT AHG HAS TABLED DATA EXCLUDING FRENCH
FORCES. FRENCH DELEGATION WILL SUBMIT PAPER ON THEIR
POSITION TO SPC ON JANUARY 17. WE BELIEVE THAT SPC
SHOULD NOT ACCEDE TO FRENCH REQUEST SINCE THIS WOULD
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NOT ONLY CREATE A PRECEDENT FOR ALL FUTURE WG STUDIES
INVOLVING DATA, BUT WOULD ALSO TEND TO CONFIRM EXCLUSION
OF FRENCH FORCES FROM THE ALLIED DATA BASE. WE RECOM-
MEND MAINTAINING DATA ON FRENCH FORCES IN WG STUDY WITH,
IF NECESSARY, A FOOTNOTE STATING THAT THE DATA IS PURELY
FOR INTERNAL ALLIED CALCULATIONS. ACTION REQUESTED:
SEE PARA 12 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. WE REPORTED IN REF A THAT SPC ON JANUARY 10 HAD
ASKED MBFR WORKING GROUP, AT FRG SUGGESTION, TO UPDATE

THE FIGURES IN THE MOST RECENT MBFR WG STUDY ON ANOMALIES (AC/276-D(75)8). AS REPORTED IN PARA 5, REF A, FRENCH REP (GUELLUY), AFTER THE MEETING, TOLD FRG REP (CITRON) THAT TOTALS FOR ALLIED FORCES IN THAT DOCUMENT CONTAINED DATA ON FRENCH FORCES IN THE NGA AND THIS DATA SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE UPDATE. BELGIAN DELEGATION OFFICER (CROLLEN) HAS INFORMED US THAT GUELLUY HAS NOW APPROACHED HIM TO INSIST THAT DATA ON FRENCH FORCES BE OMITTED FROM ANY UPDATE OF THE WG STUDY OF ANOMALIES. GUELLUY SAID THAT THIS WAS LOGICAL, NOW THAT AHG HAS TABLED DATA EXCLUDING FRENCH FORCES, AND THE NATO BASE FIGURE FOR WG COMPARISONS SHOULD BE 731,000. GUELLUY SAID THIS WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL DEMARCHE. HE ASKED CROLLEN TO INFORM THE OTHER KEY DELEGATIONS OF THE FRENCH POSITION. CROLLEN TOLD US HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS WAS AT THIS POINT A POSITION OF THE FRENCH DELEGATION, REFLECTING ONLY GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

2. CROLLEN TOLD US HE ASKED GUELLUY IF THE PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED BY MEANS OF A FOOTNOTE OR EXPLANATORY PARAGRAPH IN WG STUDY. GUELLUY REJECTED THAT SUGGESTION. CROLLEN THEN TOLD GUELLUY THAT THE WG COULD NOT OMIT DATA ON FRENCH FORCES FROM THE WG UPDATE WITHOUT A NEW MANDATE FROM THE SPC. GUELLUY SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED CROLLEN THAT THE FRENCH DELEGATION INTENDS TO SUBMIT
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PAPER ON THEIR POSITION TO SPC ON JANUARY 17.

3. WE LATER CHECKED WITH FRG DELEGATION OFFICER (CITRON) AND UK DELEGATION OFFICER (JANVRIN), WHO HAD ALREADY BEEN INFORMED BY CROLLEN OF GUELLUY'S APPROACH.

4. CITRON TOLD US THAT HE DIDN'T SEE HOW WORKING GROUP STUDIES COULD EXCLUDE FRENCH FORCES IN THE NGA FROM THEIR CALCULATIONS AND STILL BE MEANINGFUL. HE THOUGHT THE FRG COULD LIVE WITH SOME SORT OF FOOTNOTE IN THE WG UPDATE ON ANOMALIES TO MEET THE FRENCH POINT. FRG DELEGATION HAS REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS ON THE FRENCH VIEW, AND ON WHETHER IT MIGHT BE RESOLVED BY A FOOTNOTE. HE SAID THAT IF THE FRENCH RAISED THE QUESTION AT THE JANUARY 17 SPC MEETING, HE WAS NOT SURE THE FRG WOULD WANT TO MAKE A COMMENT AT THAT TIME. FRG MIGHT PREFER TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT THE FRENCH SAY IN SPC, AND MAKE AN INSTRUCTED RESPONSE TO THAT.

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5. UK DELEGATION OFFICER (JANVRIN) SAID THAT THE UK DELEGATION THINKS THAT THE FRENCH MISSED THE BOAT BY NOT SAYING ANYTHING AT THE JANUARY 10 SPC MEETING WHICH ASKED THE WG TO UPDATE THE FIGURES IN THE WG REPORT. UK DELEGATION DID NOT THINK THE SPC SHOULD NOW ASK THE WG TO DROP THE FRENCH FIGURES, AND THOUGHT THAT A FOOTNOTE MIGHT BE THE WAY OUT. UK DELEGATION BELIEVES INTERESTED DELEGATIONS SHOULD REPLY TO FRENCH AT JANUARY 17 SPC MEETING IF THE GRENCH SAY WHAT THEY ARE EXPECTED TO. UK DELEGATION HAS REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS.

6. MBFR STAFF GROUP, WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH DELEGATIONS, HAS POSTPONED THE WG MEETING WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 18 AND WHICH WOULD HAVE REVIEWED AC/276-D(75)8 WITH UPDATED FIGURES. GROUP CAPTAIN SMITH, IN POSTPONING THE MEETING, CITED ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS. HE LATER TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE
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UK AND DUTCH WG REPS, WHO TRAVEL HERE FROM LONDON AND THE HAGUE, MIGHT WASTE A TRIP IF A PROBLEM DEVELOPED AT JANUARY 17 SPC MEETING.

7. COMMENT: ACCEDING TO THE FRENCH REQUEST TO DELETE DATA ON THEIR FORCES FROM THE WG STUDY WOULD OF COURSE CREATE A PRECEDENT FOR ALL FUTURE WG STUDIES INVOLVING DATA. THE WG COULD NOT CONDUCT MEANINGFUL MILITARY TECHNICAL ANALYSIS WITHOUT INCLUDING ALL FORCES IN THE NGA IN ITS CALCULATIONS. IN ADDITION, ACCEDING TO THE FRENCH REQUEST WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM EXCLUSION OF FRENCH FORCES FROM THE ALLIED DATA BASE, PARTICULARLY IF FRENCH BASE THEIR REQUEST ON THE FACT THAT THE AHG HAS TABLED A TOTAL EXCLUDING FRENCH FORCES.

8. ONE ALTERNATIVE TO ACCEDING TO THE FRENCH REQUEST WOULD BE FOR THE SPC TO CALL BACK ITS REQUEST THAT THE WG UPDATE THE FIGURES IN THE ANOMALIES STUDY, AND SIMPLY NOT UPDATE IT. HOWEVER, THIS WOULD SET AN EQUALLY BAD PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE WG STUDIES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE OTHER ALLIES WOULD AGREE TO EITHER OF THE ABOVE ALTERNATIVES.

9. WE BELIEVE THAT THE BEST COURSE WOULD BE FOR THE SPC NOT TO ALTER ITS REQUEST TO THE WG, ON GROUNDS THAT THE DATA IN WG STUDIES ARE PURELY FOR INTERNAL ALLIED CALCULATIONS. IF NECESSARY, WE BELIEVE THE SPC COULD ALSO GO ALONG WITH A STANDARD FOOTNOTE IN WG DOCUMENTS.

10. REGARDING A FOOTNOTE, GUELLUY'S STATEMENT TO CROLLEN THAT THE FRENCH COULD NOT ACCEPT A FOOTNOTE WOULD REPRESENT A CONSIDERABLE TRANSITION IN FRENCH VIEWS SINCE LATE 1975. AT THAT TIME, FRENCH REP IN SPC STATED THAT THE FRENCH UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS USEFUL TO INCLUDE ESTIMATES OF FRENCH FORCES IN MBFR DATA STUDIES, AND THE FRENCH THEMSELVES PROPOSED A FOOTNOTE FOR WG DATA
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DOCUMENTS (PARA 2, REF B). THE US AT THAT TIME WAS FLEXIBLE ON THE QUESTION OF A FOOTNOTE (REF C). THE FRENCH DID NOT INSIST ON A FOOTNOTE AT THAT TIME IN THE FACE OF STRONG RESERVATIONS ON THE PART OF THE DUTCH. THE BEST FOOTNOTE TO WG DOCUMENTS, IF ONE IS NEEDED, WOULD PROBABLY BE A SIMPLE STATEMENT THAT, WITH RESPECT TO DATA ON FRENCH FORCES, THE READER SHOULD REFER TO FOOTNOTE ONE TO C-M(73)83.

11. THE KEY ALLIED DELEGATIONS HAVE AGREED TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER REGARDING THIS PROBLEM. WE EXPECT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER KEY DELEGATIONS PRIOR TO THE SPC MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 17. END COMMENT.

12. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE IN LIGHT OF ABOVE COMMENT BY MONDAY, JANUARY 17. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 30-Aug-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO00166
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770191/baaabbek.tel
Line Count: 209
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 2c9184de-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) USNATO 134 (DTG 121620Z JAN 77), (B) 75 USNATO 5580 (DTG 141535Z OCT 75), (C) 75 STATE 248365 (DTG 180120Z OCT 75)
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3680087
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: ANOMALIES: FRENCH PROBLEM
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE SECDEF MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2c9184de-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009